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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A 4-H CLUB LEADER IN THE COMMUNITY

A radio talk by Miss Kathleen M. Galvin, 4-H Club Leader, Albion, Rhode Island, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program December 7, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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I speak from the experience of twelve years of 4-H leadership experience filled with many satisfying results. There has also been difficulties but these have served only as stepping stones to greater accomplishments. Therefore, I can honestly say that the effects of this four-fold training are more than can be estimated.

The National 4-H Pledge sums up the aims and ideals of 4-H work. It offers invaluable character education to the youth of America.

"I pledge my head to clearer thinking." Indeed, the leader must think clearly, for isn't she dealing with real people and live situations which must be solved wisely? Is she not aware that the clear thinking of the leader reflects itself in the clear thinking of the members?

"Our hearts to greater loyalty"

Here we have the foundation of happiness and success, loyalty to our homes, our friends, our community, our country, loyalty to our ideals, our religion, ourselves.

What a grand world this would be if loyalty were more evident! How smoothly the machinery of life would run, were it oiled more often with loyalty!

"Our hands to larger services" speaks for itself. It has taught me that service to our community should play an important part in our lives.

Since no individual can live alone co-operation and service should be our motto. What a boon to a community is 4-H Club work which imbues our future citizens with such high ideals.

"My health to better living" How could a 4-H leader hope to do the work which a real 4-H program involves unless she pays some attention to her own health?

What does 4-H leadership mean to me? My answer is--It means satisfaction, satisfaction which comes from the knowledge that results--both tangible and intangible have been secured and that greater success is attainable. Results which will satisfy both the practical-minded and the idealist.

4-H club work trains its members to earn money, to spend wisely and to plan for the future. It teaches improved methods in home economics and agriculture which result in larger profits. Furthermore, this work affords opportunities to compete for honors which are of financial value as well as

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moral worth. I have in my own club, boys who are earning their way through college by work started as a 4-H project.

Moreover, one boy received a substantial scholarship through his 4-H achievements, and as a result other boys have absorbed the desire to attend college which to my mind, is the self-starter for any education.

In addition, 4-H work supplements the ordinary schooling and broadens the viewpoint of those who cannot continue their actual attendance at school.

The intangible results are far-reaching and sometimes never recognized. I have seen my boys and girls grown into young people, of whom the community is and the nation might well be proud. Their qualities of initiative, self-reliance, fair play, and courage in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles are evident to people in and out of club work.

Their leadership ability and cooperation are recognized in other groups in which they participate.

Add to this their knowledge of parliamentary procedure and you have the reason why they are so often elected to offices of responsibility.

4-H girls are well-dressed, well-groomed, courteous, healthy and happy. They can plan good times and enjoy simple recreation because they know that money cannot buy happiness. These village and rural boys and girls are up to date in every respect. They can hold their own in any group of young people.

We who know how valuable this character building agency is derive the utmost satisfaction in playing even a small part in making these achievements possible. We know they are being prepared for civic usefulness and social participation, that they are learning to enjoy and appreciate the finer things of life.

They come to us of their own volition, they accept gladly what we have to offer and remain with us only as long as we give them what they want--namely, friendship, understanding, a chance to learn practical things, to work and play with other young people-- to co-operate and achieve.

In conclusion, I want to say that I am proud and happy to be one of a vast army of local leaders who are vitally interested in the youth of America through the nation wide 4-H club organization.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with them and for them, because as former president has so aptly put it, "If you are going to do anything for the average man you must begin with the boy and not with the man."

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